

MEETING OF WENATCHEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE: ELECTORAL PROCESS

December 14, 2015

WENATCHEE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

129 S. Chelan Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER 5:30 PM

Chair Jean Speidel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Committee members present were: Susan Albert, Oralia Banuelos, Mario Cantu, Gustavo Montoya, Joe Morrison and Mark Urdahl. Alma Chacon participated via phone conference. Members absent were: Carolyn Case, Karen Rutherford and Rufus Woods. Staff present were Executive Services Director Allison Williams, Community & Economic Development Director Steve King, and City Clerk Tammy Stanger.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 30, 2015, MEETING (5 minutes)

Motion to approve the November 30, 2015, minutes by Mark Urdahl. Joe Morrison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DISTRICTS

Mark Urdahl and Gustavo Montoya led the discussion on guiding principles. Handouts were provided containing a draft set of guiding principles and comments from Joe Morrison and Rufus Woods. The committee discussed the draft principles. Joe Morrison and Jean Speidel will provide a revised version at the next meeting.

V. ASSESSMENT OF STATUS (info needed, pros, cons)

Report on information requested. Steve King led a conversation clarifying what data the committee would like to see. They reviewed the task list from the November 30, 2015, meeting minutes and additional work will be done as follows:

- Research information on other cities (preferably similar population as Wenatchee) which have changed to districts, and see if there was an increase in the number of candidates and number of voters several elections after the initial one. Obtain for Yakima and other cities our size, by district: population, CVAP, registered voters, votes cast.

- For Wenatchee, by precinct: comparison of population, CVAP, registered voters and number of votes for the November 2015 City Council elections.
- For Wenatchee, based on the sample districts drawn around current City Council members by our expert, how many votes they received from voters in those districts. (This has been completed).
- For Wenatchee, using the draft districts created by our expert, match them with existing precincts, and provide a chart of the following information by district:
 1. CVAP number, CVAP percentage, Latino number, Latino percentage, registered voters number, registered voters percentage; and
 2. for the November 2012 and 2015 elections, voter turnout by CVAP number, CVAP percentage, Latino number, Latino percentage, registered voters number, registered voters percentage.
- Research any evidence that might show Wenatchee voters engage in block voting patterns similar to what occurred in Yakima.
- Research how many contested races since 2000 to the present there were in Wenatchee, in real numbers and as a percentage of total races (this has been completed). Also, this information for similar sized cities.
- Request expert Bill Cooper to prepare a hybrid (some districts, some at large) scenario.

VI. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The committee discussed public outreach and community engagement.

- Latino focus - Oralia Banuelos and Alma Chacon will coordinate a meeting to coincide with the One America and NW Immigration Roundtable meeting that is scheduled for mid-January.
- Wenatchee Valley College - Susan Albert and Gustavo Montoya will follow up with the WVC students to schedule a public meeting.
- Museum – Tammy Stanger will follow up with the museum to get some dates/times for a public meeting in late January/early February.

VII. NEXT STEPS (5 minutes)

- Assignments
 - Joe Morrison and Jean Speidel will revise the guiding principles for further discussion at the next meeting.

- Staff will ask expert Bill Cooper to provide a hybrid scenario (i.e. 5 districts, 2 at large).
 - Staff will work on research/data information to have available for the second meeting in January.
 - Work will begin on scheduling public meetings (Latino focused, WVC, and museum).
 - Jean Speidel discussed recent articles about districting and handed out an Arkansas article provided by Allison Williams. She will email the articles to the committee.
- Next meeting – Committee: January 11, 2016

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.